

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are now pending in this application for which applicant seeks reconsideration.

Amendment

Claims 1-5, 7, and 8 have been revised to improve their form, clarity, and readability. The revised claims are believed to be free of the informalities identified by the examiner. Moreover, claim 6 has been canceled, and new dependent claims 9 and 10 have been added.

Original claim 1 recited both the third speed input gear (34a) and the backward input gear (34a). Since the third speed input gear (34a) doubles as a backward input gear (as now explicitly recited in claim 2), claim 1 has been appropriately revised to remove all reference to the backward input gear. Claim 1 further has been amended to recite "input and output" gears to provide proper antecedent basis for the depending claims, as well as for clarity. Moreover, claim 1 has been amended to remove all reference to "a plurality of pairs of shift gears ..." since they are redundant to the first through sixth gear pairs defined therein.

No new matter has been introduced.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1-5 have been allowed. As claims 7 and 8 properly depend from allowed claim 3, they are also in condition for allowance. It appears that the examiner erroneously objected to the dependency of claims 7 and 8. Claims 7 and 8, which parallel claims 4 and 5, properly depend from claim 3. Note that as originally claimed, claims 4 and 5 improperly depended from multiply dependent claim 3. Applicant thus previously revised claims 4 and 5, and added claims 7 and 8 that properly depend from claim 3 to correct the dependency problem.

Art Rejection

Only claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Honda (USP 5,720,203) in view of JP 3-364. Since claim 6 has been canceled, this rejection has been rendered moot. Note that new dependent claims 9 and 10 now claim the feature (parking gear integrated with the sleeve) of claim 6.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1-5 and 7-10 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE

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REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

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